Pol 14 Viet S (1438)

Department of State TELEGRAM

UNCLASSIFIED 797

PAGE 01 SAIGON 06107 221311Z

53
ACTION EA-20

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-08 L-04 NSAE-00
NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-28 UPW-01
RSR-01 /117 W
090769

R 221045Z APR 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3856
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG
USDEL FRANCE
ZNE/AMEMBASSY PHNPENH 1366
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

UNCLAS SAIGON 6107

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izarbeg DATE 1/26/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

SAIGON 6107 4/22/71

SUBJ: PRESIDENT THIEU ANNOUNCEMENT ON OBSERVERS FOR ELECTION

1. THE OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT THIEU MADE FOLLOWING NEWS RELEASE APRIL 22:

2. QUOTE. ON APRIL 21, 1971 DURING A RECEPTION HELD AFTER THE GRADUATION OF THE 40TH BASIC TRAINING COURSE FOR NATIONAL POLICEMEN, IN VUNG TAU THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC SAID THAT THERE ARE CURRENTLY SOME ILL-INTENTIONED AND COMMUNIST-INSPIRED PERSONS WHO CONTEND THAT THE LOWER HOUSE AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS WILL NOT BE HELD THIS YEAR ON ACCOUNT OF THE WAR.

3. THOSE PERSONS ALSO SPREAD RUMOUR THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE WAR TO MAINTAIN THE CURRENT LOWER HOUSE AND TO PROLONG THE PRESIDENTIAL YERM. THE PRESIDENT AFFIRMED THAT THESE ARE GROUNDLESS RUMOURS AND SHEER COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA DESIGNED TO CREATE CONFUSION IN THE PEOPLE. THE PRESIDENT SAID TODAY THAT SECURITY IS MUCH

(1)

BETTER THAN IT WAS IN 1967, ') THIS SITUATION IS HELPING US TO IMPLEMENT DEMOCRACY CORRECTI AND TO CONSOLIDATE OUR DEMOCRACY.

4. THE PRESIDENT AFFIRMED THAT BOTH ELECTIONS, THE LOWER HOUSE AND THE PRESIDENTIAL ONES, WILL BE HELD ON TIME, AS PRESCRIBED BY THE CONSTITUTION.

5. THE PRESIDENT ADDED THAT IN THE COMING ELECTIONS, AND ESPECIALLY IN THE OCTOBER PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, THERE WILL SURELY BE MANY OBSERVERS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD WHO WILL WISH TO COME TO VIET NAM TO OBSERVE THE ELECTIONS, AND .KELY THEY WILL COME IN GREATER NUMBER THAN IN 1967. FOR FINANCIAL REASONS, THE REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM IS NOT ABLE TO FIANCE SUCH OBSERVATION VISIT. HOWEVER THE PRESIDENT WELCOMES ALL DELEGATIONS, OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL, FROM ALL NATIONS WHICH GENUINELY WANT TO OBSERVE THE ELECTIONS IN VIET NAM TO DETERMINE OBJECTIVELY THE DEGREE OF FAIRNESS IN THESE DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS.

6. MOREOVER, THE PRESIDENT WILL ALSO SUGGEST TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO INVITE DELEGATIONS FROM FRIENDLY NATIONS TO VIET NAM DURING THE COMING ELECTIONS. UNQUOTE.
BERGER